

SMITH VELMA T
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SOPN, AF, UR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON ROLE OF SOVIET ADVISERS

1. FOLLOWING IS A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY ROBERT TRUMBULL WHICH APPEARED FEBRUARY 18 UNDER THE HEADLINE "UNITED STATES SAYS RUSSIANS IN KABUL URGED DELAY":

2. QUOTE: UNITED STATES EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY FELT SOVIET OFFICIALS, WHO HAD BEEN ADVISING THE AFGHAN POLICE BEFORE THE SHOOTOUT WITH GUERRILLAS IN WHICH AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUPS DIED, HAD AGREED WITH AMERICAN ADVICE TO USE DELAYING TACTICS IN DEALING WITH THE TERRORISTS.

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3. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID IN INTERVIEWS THAT THE SOVIET ADVISERS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONVEY TO THE AFGHAN POLICE THE RUSSIANS' AGREEMENT OF DELAYING TACTICS.

4. THE INABILITY OF THE AMERICANS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH TOP RANKING AFGHANS, DESPITE CONSTANT EFFORTS, HAS LEFT THE EMBASSY STAFF FRUSTRATED. "WE WERE SIMPLY UNABLE TO CONTACT THE DECISION-MAKERS," AN EMBASSY AID DECLARED TODAY.

5. SOME OF THE DIPLOMATS SAID THAT THE SOVIET ADVISERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING THE SAME COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES, SINCE TOP AFGHAN OFFICIALS HERE PREOCCUPIED THAT DAY WITH THE VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAQ. SAADUN HAMADI.

6. THE COMMENTS AT THE EMBASSY CONFLICTED WITH EARLIER REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, WHERE OFFICIALS HELD THE SOVIET ADVISERS HERE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DECISION BY THE AFGHAN POLICE TO STORM THE HOTEL. A MOOD OF ANGER AND RECRIMINATION WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SWEEPED THROUGH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AFTER AN INITIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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ACCOUNT OF THE SHOOTOUT WAS CIRCULATED.

7. BUT OFFICIALS AT THE EMBASSY APPEARED TO BE PUZZLED THAT THE REACTION TO THEIR CABLES HAD BEEN SO VEHEMENT. THE EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAID THAT NOTHING IN THEIR REPORTS HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY CONCLUSIVE TO CAUSE SUCH A RESPONSE.

8. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAD ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIET ADVISERS PAID NO HEED TO AMERICAN REQUESTS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY, AND INSTEAD DIRECTED THE POLICE TO ATTACK THE ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HOTEL KABUL, WHERE

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MR. DUBS WAS APPARENTLY KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE.

9. ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER SUMMONED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, ANATOLY F. DOBRYNIN, TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THURSDAY TO PROTEST "IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE SHOCK OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OVER THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIET ADVISERS."

10. THE EMBASSY HERE, TO CLARIFY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THE SHOOTOUT, HAS ASKED THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR COPIES OF THE POLICE REPORTS.

11. AMONG THE UNCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT WERE THE EXACT ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIET ADVISERS. THEY HAD REPLACED WEST GERMAN ADVISERS AFTER THE COUP IN WHICH NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI SEIZED POWER IN APRIL. MR. TARAKI, A MAXIST 61-YEAR OLD FORMER JOURNALIST, BECAME PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

12. AGAINST THE ADVICE OF THE AMERICANS AT THE HOTEL, THE AFGHAN POLICE OPENED FIRE WHEN THE ABDUCTORS OF MR. DUBS WARNED THAT THEY WOULD KILL THE ENVOY UNLESS THEIR DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF THREE GUERRILLA PRISONERS WAS GRANTED IN 10 MINUTES.

13. AFGHAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE POLICE RUSHED THE ROOM AFTER THEY HEARD A SHOT INSIDE. AMERICANS PRESENT SAID THEY DID NOT HEAR THE INITIAL SHOT, BUT ADDED THAT THE SOUND MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN IN THE DIN THAT IMMEDIATELY BROKE OUT, CONFUSING THEIR PERCEPTION.

14. THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY OF KABUL, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE OTHER EMBASSIES HERE, TURNED OUT FOR A MEMORIAL SERVICE LAST NIGHT AT THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE WHERE MR. DUBS HAD LIVED DURING HIS YEAR OF SERVICE. ABOUT 600

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PERSONS ATTENDED THE SERVICE.

15. MANY MOURNERS ALSO WENT TO THE AIRPORT EARLY THIS MORNING AND THE FLAG-DRAPED CASKET WAS BORNE ABOARD A UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PLANE- BACK TO WASHINGTON FOR THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

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16. THROUGHOUT THE MORNING, DIPLOMATS AND OTHERS FILED INTO THE VESTIBULE OF THE EMBASSY TO SIGN THEIR NAMES IN A BOOK OF CONDOLENCE. "AMBASSADOR DUES WAS SPECIAL: PROBABLY NO OTHER AMBASSADOR KNEW SO MANY PEOPLE BY NAME." A MARINE GUARD SAID TO ONE OF THE VISITORS.

17. THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE, MARY ANN PARSONS DUBS, WHO WAS IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS KILLED, FLEW ON THE PLANE FROM WASHINGTON TO ATTEND THE MEMORIAL SERVICE HERE. END QUOTE. VANCE

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